

IMAGEN OF Boulder County

Issue #4

April 2006

Thoughts on *Walkout* and Demonstrations

Researched by Tony Tafoya

On my way to work last month, I was listening to the *Democracy Now* radio program on KGNU in Boulder. The program featured the hosts Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez interviewing community activist, poet and writer Luis Rodrigues, high school student Jasmine Chavez, and Moctesuma Esparza, the producer of the recently released film, *Walkout*.

The HBO film is about the 1968 walkout by high school Chicano students in East Los Angeles. The students were protesting the lack of cultural history being taught and the lack of recognition for their own human dignity. Students were punished for speaking Spanish and were discouraged from pursuing a college degree, because they were made to believe that they were best suited for menial labor jobs.

Some students like Moctesuma Esparza would not let this stand, and as a student at UCLA began organizing high school students. In 1968, it is estimated that as many as 20,000 high school students participated in the walkouts. The students were chanting, "Chicano power." Esparza describes this as a liberating moment. "And it's not about having power over the other people. It's not about separating yourselves. It was about reclaiming our own human dignity, reclaiming our own human power." Esparza describes the walkouts as the start of the modern Chicano movement. "It has nothing to do with limiting other people or having power over other people. It was really about freeing ourselves of the limitations that we had accepted and internalized." His conclusion is that the boundaries that were self imposed were broken by the students.

The response by the police was brutal as described by director Edgar James Olmos in an interview with HBO. "Well up until 1995 none of us had really seen or knew too much about the beatings. We had only heard about them. And different people have different stories. But when you hear stories, you don't really know whether or not they're factual or if they're just stories. In 1995, Hector Galan produced a documentary series called *Chicano* which was the first series to dig deeper into that period, looking at the history of Mexican Americans in the United States, especially the Southwest. They went into the vaults at some of the local news companies here in Los Angeles, and since nobody really knew what they were looking for, they said well, we're looking for some information that dealt with 1968 and the school walkouts from that period. So they went into that period and sure enough, all of a sudden they found the footage. And they used it in the documentary they made. Well, it was the first time in the history of this country that that footage had been seen. Even though they filmed it in 1968, no one had ever had an opportunity to see it. So this was the first time we got to see it. Well, when we saw it, it was blatant discrimination, blatant prejudices that were seen. And the discrimination and prejudices were so intense that it went from the seventh grade through the twelfth grade. And this happened at quite a few of the schools. The majority of the kids were from eleven to eighteen years old, standing up and walking out. You see on the documentary incredible acts of

violence against these children. Men and women, boys and girls were beaten, bludgeoned, many were sent to the hospital. Many were injured, but never went to the hospital. And nothing was ever said. They never went to court. Nobody was ever prosecuted. So they got the footage. And they used it in the documentary....”

Today we are seeing demonstrations concerning HR 4437 which would make it a felony to be in the country illegally. It is currently a misdemeanor. Daily reports state that walkouts are occurring throughout the country. In Los Angeles 11,000 students walked out despite school lockdowns and threats from administrators. Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent, and former Colorado Governor, Roy Romer, said the walkouts would be treated as truants. Still, students from at least 20 schools planned to walk out for Cesar Chavez’ birthday.

Locally, we have seen a substantial number of student walkouts in Longmont, Boulder, and Niwot. These appear to be spontaneous. Through the use of cell phones and text messages students are well connected. They are also aided by the Spanish language radio and TV stations. The local English speaking media seems to be out of the loop.

While in the 1968 walkouts, it took years to get organized, the response to HR 4437 is having immediate national implications. There have been peaceful demonstrations in Chicago with 300,000 people. Rallies have also been held in Atlanta, Milwaukee, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Dallas and Houston. In Los Angeles there were 500,000 and in Denver 50,000 demonstrated.

The Denver response was a complete surprise to local organizers who expected much smaller

numbers. Local Spanish radio, TV, and the use of cell phones have been credited with getting the word out in less than a week. Word of mouth did the rest.

The response to the proposed changes to an immigration bill that would make it a felony to be in the country illegally has really awakened a sleeping giant as seen by the various rallies. It is unlikely that mass deportations will occur because public opinion will not permit it. The Catholic Church and other denominations will not permit it. And the business community, especially agriculture and the building trades, cannot afford to permit it. Can you imagine deporting 11 million persons? How long would it take? How much would it cost? And, who is willing to pay the political price? I read a recent column by Washington Post columnist George Will who stated, “Since 2000, births, not immigration were the largest source of growth of America’s Latino population.” Latinos already here are a young population and have higher birth rates than whites. It is often said that you cannot beat back a high birth rate.

So, we are experiencing something very special in this country. We are seeing our future Latino leaders earning their early wings. For them to earn their permanent wings as leaders they will need to learn the lessons of the streets and the lessons in the classroom. They will need to learn the lessons of those who lit the trail before them. When you know where you have been, the road to your future will be secure. It’s like a guiding light that you post to point the way. All who see the light will be attracted to it. The light will not be feared, for it will shine on everyone.

**In Unity there is strength,
communication and progress**

Publisher's Notes from Colorado, National Image and Around the Country

- ♦ To View the Denver *Noticiero* online go to <http://eeo.boulder.noaa.gov>. Click on Employment.
- ♦ **May 14-21, - 2006 National Image Training Conference. Theme, *Education, Commitment and Leadership, Making a Difference in our Nation*. To be held at the Hyatt Regency, N.W., 122 N. 2nd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. For more information visit www.nationalimageinc.org.**
- ♦ The April monthly meeting for Boulder County Image will be on April 10th, from 11:30-12:30 p.m., at the Ajuua Restarurant, 627 South Broadway, Boulder, CO.
- ♦ Washington, D.C. March 28, 2006. "The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee took important steps yesterday for bipartisan, pragmatic, fair, and humane immigration reform," said John Trasviña, MALDEF Senior Vice President for Law and Policy. "The Committee's comprehensive bill aims at the right balance, enhancing our nation's security while providing a path to earned legal status for the millions of undocumented workers who contribute to our communities and the economy."
- ♦ "Hundreds of thousands of people have raised their voices in support of humane reform and a path to legal status for America's 11 million unauthorized workers. The Committee heard them," said Eric Gutierrez, MALDEF Legislative Staff Attorney. "As the debate moves into the full Senate, we urge continued momentum on the path to real reform and comprehensive solutions."

LEAVE DONATIONS NEEDED FOR DANIEL DE LEON

For donations from outside DOL, there is a form that should be used so that the servicing payroll office may certify their current leave balance before it goes to DOL for processing. The form is OPM 630b and can be found at <http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf/fill/opm630.pdf>.

Please fax all donations to: 415.975.4064. US DOL—OASAM/HRD, Attn: Leave Donation Program, 71 Stevenson Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94105-2972.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Daniel E. De Leon

For over 20 years as a U S D O L employee, I have made it a point of giving some of my annual leave to those in need of "Donated Leave". My giving has been based on the biblical law of "Seed Time & Harvest."

In other words, if I planted a seed I could expect to receive a harvest when I was in need. Well now I am in need, as I have run out of leave time and I am faced with having to retire. There was a time I once donated 70 hours of leave to one person, but now I would be grateful for 7 hours. Please consider this humble appeal and help me make the transition to retirement without a loss of a paycheck. The bible says "give unto the poor and you give unto to the Lord and He will repay." God will meet your financial need as well. God bless you all.

SONETOS DE LA LUZ

I

¡Cómo sabiendo que Tú eres la vida,
ando en la muerte lleno de alborozo?
Me inclino sobre mí como ante un pozo:
¡y en sombras bajas, la estrella encendida!

Qué espesor de silencio en esa herida
tan desangrada como un calabozo.
Pero allá abajo chispea con gozo
esa punta de sol jamás partida.

Si te quiero cubrir, pequeño abismo,
sería sepultarme así en mí mismo.
Pero al cerrar los ojos, en mis ojos
la inescandible luz allí estaría.
Y entre la destrucción y sus despojos
deja esa luz su cordial joyería.

II

La luz descubre la verdad que es vida.
¿Estoy amaneciendo muy despacio?
El cuerpo, tumba en luz, será un palacio;
la copa, con el agua confundida.

Quiero ver sin los ojos, descendida
e invasora de cuanto en mí es espacio
la jocunda explosión de ese topacio
que en luz esconde su verdad cumplida.

Iluminarme luminosamente
como el agua que sale bajo el Puente
y en el instante que el cenit ordena.

La luz descubre la verdad que es vida.
¡Cristo, Dueño y Señor, pon la azucena
sobre el sepulcro de la ceiba hendida!

Carlos Pellicer, Mexico, *Práctica de vuelo*, 1956.

ESTUDIO

El corazón nutrido de luceros
ha de escuchar un día
el signo musical y el ritmo eternos.

Y el ojo que endulzó lágrima pura
ha de mirar un día
el agua danzarina de la gracia desnuda.

Sobre el labio de orilla bulliciosa
ha de caer un día
la voz de una palabra portentosa.

El sinfónico oído de colores
ha de escuchar un día
la melodía de otros horizontes.

La mano que tocó todas las cosas
ha de tocar un día
proporciones sutiles, sombras de alas gozosas.

Y el brillo de la angustia sobre el alma
ha de tornarse un día
en mirada divina y en gozo sin palabras.

Carlos Pellicer, Mexico, *Hora y 20*, 1927.

The Goals and Objectives of Boulder County Image

- A. To seek a broad development and expansion of employment opportunities for the aspirants among the Latino population.
- B. To assist and encourage the government services in providing the best possible circumstances for the recruitment, training, employment and advancement of Latinos.
- C. To encourage and actively support the promotion and advancement of Latinos already employed.
- D. To counter employment issues based on social, ethnic, religious, age and gender discrimination, direct or indirect.
- E. To analyze and determine the educational and professional needs of Latinos seeking entry and advancement in employment; and, whenever possible, provide appropriate training and counseling services to meet these needs – particularly among the youth.
- F. To establish and continually upgrade a broad basis of communications with Latino employees across the nation.
- G. To respond to the reasonable requests of non-members and groups whose problems, goals, and objectives are supportable within the By Laws of Boulder County Image.
- H. To enhance the promotion of ethnic pride, culture, and camaraderie through the organized and regular social gatherings which will serve to bind members together.
- I. To provide a non-partisan platform on major issues of local and national significance so that members may be better informed and may express their views.
- J. To expand the concept and objectives of National Image, Inc., to communities throughout the United States to provide maximum impact on the benefits derived from the pursuit of these goals and objectives as stated above.

Key Committee Functions

The key functions performed by Boulder County Image officers and members of standing committees include: **Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues; Membership and Outreach;** and **Consultation**. The President of Boulder County Image will assign members on an ad hoc basis as the need arises. The following is a brief description of each function:

Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues

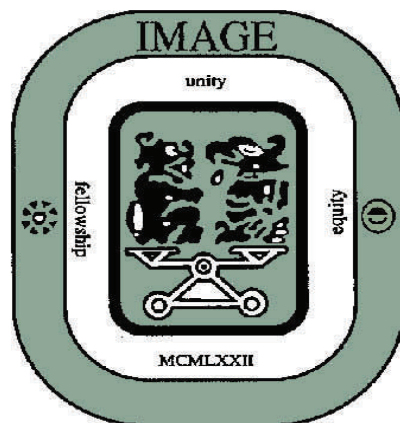
The advocacy function is performed when members take a pro-active role in seeing that a client's issue is addressed by the appropriate community, education or government organization. This function typically involves the following: Mediating an issue at the lowest level before it escalates; Negotiating issues on behalf of clients; Assisting local businesses with employee issues; Assisting students and parents with local school issues, e.g. fighting, drop out, and equal treatment policies; Educating the community on Latino issues; Researching legal information (not advice) on various employment topics; Accompanying clients (employees and applicants) and serving as their representative. Boulder County Image will monitor civil rights issues in the community and provide a community service by organizing Latinos and educating them on issues.

Membership and Outreach

The membership committee is charged with an ongoing program of recruiting and retaining members. This committee coordinates a yearly membership drive for new members. The outreach function is performed by going out into the community to explain Image programs and communicating the assistance that can be provided. Typically, this function involves attending meetings and briefings, networking with agency representatives, providing orientation briefings to newcomers, attending training sessions and education workshops - both as participants and presenters.

Consultation

Consultation services are typically provided to clients who are in need of explanations related to documents that need an interpretation and require follow up actions. Consultations are private.



***IMAGEN* is a
publication of**

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#348
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IMAGEN seeks to inform
Latinos on employment, education
and civil rights issues.

Editor: Tony Tafoya

MISSION

National Image, Inc. was established in 1972, to address Latino concerns in employment, education, and civil rights. Boulder County Image is an affiliate of National Image, Inc. and operates in Colorado within Region VIII. Its mission is to work with federal, state, county and local government organizations and community members to improve the status of Latinos in focused mission areas.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOULDER COUNTY IMAGE**

OFFICERS:

The following were elected as interim officers at the first meeting on July 13, 2005. They will serve while the petition to affiliate with National Image, Inc. is being reviewed.

President - Becky Rios

1st Vice President - Richard Shields

2nd Vice President - Katy Stewart

Secretary - Vacant

Treasurer - Michelle Masias

TASK FORCE CHAIRS/MEMBERS:

The following have been appointed as chairs of the standing task forces. Members will be contacted to join one of these task forces.

Social/Cultural - Michelle Masias

Education - Richard Shields

Employment - Vacant

Civil Rights - Katy Stewart

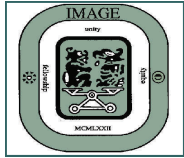
NATIONAL OFFICERS:

National President - John Griego

Region VIII Director - Joe Davalos

Colorado State Director - Tony Montoya

Special Assistant Office of the Chairman -
Ramón Montoya



Boulder County Image
#348
637-B South Broadway
Boulder CO 80305

Membership Application Form

Applicant Information (please print or type)

Name	
Home Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Employer Name	
Work Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone (business)	
Telephone (Home)	
Fax	
E-Mail	

Membership Information #4-06

Type of Membership: New _____ Renewal _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(Membership dues are \$15.00 (\$8.00 for National dues, \$2.00 for State dues and \$5.00 for Chapter.)

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